Casualties Due to Silicosis

2357. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a good number of labourers casualties due to silicosis disease in Mandsau district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any report from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Paper Mills

2358. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of paper mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) their installed capacity and production achieved by them during 1990-91;

(c) the number of mills failed to achieve the targets and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the growth of the paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c) Government do not fix any targets of production for individual paper mills.

(d) Government have taken the following steps to encourage the growth of the paper industry:–

(i) Import of wood pulp and waste paper has been allowed under OGL at a low rate of customs duty.

(ii) Manufacture of writing and printing paper and uncoated kraft paper containing not less than 75% by weight of pulp made from jute (including jute waste), mesta or bagasse or mixture thereof or mixture of two or more of the pulps of the afore-mentioned materials is exempted from excise duty.

(iii) Paper mills using agro residues and other non-conventional raw materials atleast upto 50% are charged excise duty at concessional rates.

(iv) The Paper and Paper Board Industry, based on agricultural residues has been brought under the scheme of Minimum Economic Capacity, which has been fixed at 33,000 TPA.

(v) Paper units,, based on use of minimum 75% pulp from bagasse, agricultural residues and other non-conventional raw materials, have been exempted from Industrial licensing.